

one of the most colorful and important festivals of Puerto Rican culture in the five Boroughs of New York City and beyond.

The Parade brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, including Puerto Ricans from the island and all across the nation.

It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of thousands of people who will march with pride from Mount Eden to 161st Street along the Grand Concourse in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage. The Puerto Rican flag and other ornaments in the flag's red, white, and blue will decorate the festival.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful that so many people can have this experience, which will change the lives of many of them. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. The Parade ends at 161st and the Grand Concourse, where live music, Puerto Rican food, crafts, and other entertainments await partakers. It is expected that this year's Parade will surpass last year's half-million visitors.

In addition to the parade, the many organizers will provide the community with nearly a week of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Puerto Rican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Puerto Rican culture, which has brought pride to the Bronx community.

#### HONORING DANIEL T. FLAHERTY OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a friend and constituent, Daniel T. Flaherty. This year Dan Flaherty celebrates his 50th Anniversary as a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Dan, a native of West Bend, Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1949. He immediately joined the law firm of Johns, Roraff and Coleman in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. In Dan's early days at the law firm, he worked under contract as an Assistant District Attorney for La Crosse County. Over the years Dan developed a particular expertise doing medical malpractice work for La Crosse's growing medical centers. Today, the law firm that Dan helped build bears his name; Johns, Flaherty and Rice.

Dan was also an active member of the La Crosse community and leader in the State of Wisconsin. Dan, a lifelong environmental activist, was appointed in 1975 to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. He served with distinction on that board until 1981, including a year as Chairman. Dan also served as President of the La Crosse Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Third Congressional District Democratic Party.

Dan has been happily married to his wife Lorraine for fifty-two years. They are the proud

parents of four children and have ten grandchildren.

For fifty years, Dan Flaherty has been an outstanding lawyer, partner and community leader. At a time when there are a growing number of people who are uninterested in or feel disconnected from the democratic process, Dan maintains an active interest in public policy matters at the local, state and national levels. The City of La Crosse and the State of Wisconsin are better places to live because of Dan's wisdom, leadership and community service. It is with great pride and admiration that I rise today before the United States House of Representatives to pay tribute to and congratulate, a friend, a great citizen, and a wonderful person, Daniel T. Flaherty.

#### IN MEMORY OF THE LATE WILLARD MUNGER

#### HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, although liver cancer took him from us at age 88, Willard Munger will not merely go down in history as the longest serving member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Far more importantly, he will be remembered forever as "Mr. Environment."

In 1954, Willard Munger began his career in the Minnesota House where he remained the leading contributor to Minnesota's environmental legislation for four decades. Through his service and dedication to the people of Minnesota, Willard Munger truly exemplified what it means to be a public servant.

Willard Munger's contributions were made through his deep concern for the lives of future generations he will never know. His tireless advocacy for environmental protection, stewardship of our resources, and sustainability was often confrontational and controversial. But this is truly a badge of honor considering the causes he championed. Often his heroic efforts went without any reward whatsoever as he took on powerful vested interests on behalf of the public interest.

It was Willard Munger's vision of ensuring a pristine environment for future generations that fueled his passion. His legacy will endure for years to come, especially for those who have the opportunity to travel the almost 70 miles of biking trails stretching from Duluth to Hinckley, Minnesota, aptly named the "Willard Munger Trail."

As a friend and mentor to me and others, Willard Munger will be missed, but he will never be forgotten. His accomplishments are far too great. His life reminds all of us of the simple truth that anything is possible when one truly stands up for one's beliefs. Thank you, Mr. Environment, for making the world a better place for generations to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 323, I was engaged in a meeting

with a colleague regarding legislation affecting Colorado, and did not hear the bells in time to be recorded. Had I been able to respond in time, I would have voted "aye."

#### IRELAND'S INTERESTS WELL REPRESENTED IN THE UNITED STATES

#### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, peace may well come soon to Northern Ireland. As intense as the remaining obstacles may be, the closeness of an agreement which leads to an elected Assembly makes us hopeful. But as we fervently pray and work for peace with our counterparts in Belfast, London and Dublin, we must also attend to other American-Ireland business which makes our bonds so strong.

During this time, over the last four years to be exact, those of us in the United States who have been staunch supporters of the peace talks and closer ties between Ireland and the United States recognize well the name of Patrick Hennessy. Mr. Hennessy has served his country as Counsellor at the Irish Embassy in Washington and now has been reassigned, according to the practice of the Irish Foreign Service Department, to Dublin.

Pat Hennessy has done an exemplary job. He is an outstanding and reliable resource. As Chairman of the Friends of Ireland and as Co-chair with Representative BEN GILMAN of New York of the U.S.-Irish Interparliamentary Group, I have come to value Pat's many abilities.

Indeed, the Irish Government's official presence in our country is well represented by the high-caliber professionalism of Pat Hennessy.

His good humor, his intelligence and his love of Ireland—as well as his evident respect for our shared values and aspirations—make him the "diplomat's diplomat."

I will miss Pat's insight and assistance. I am comforted that, being a young man, he will remain in public service and I look forward to a time when we find ourselves working together again.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, due to the wedding of my daughter Leslie, I was not here on Friday, June 25 and subsequently missed rollcall vote No. 256. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On Monday, July 12, a delayed flight from Syracuse to Washington forced me to miss rollcall vote 277, 278 and 279. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" to each of those votes.